## REMARKS

In the amendments above, Claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 13, 17, 22, and 24 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant's invention.

The drawings, specification, and claims have been objected to, and the claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner's attention is directed to the amendments above, wherein said objections and rejection are believed to have been overcome.

Claims 1, 2, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Loke. The Examiner maintains that with respect to Claim 1, Loke discloses a keyboard including a plurality of surfaces at different elevations as shown in Figure 4 of Loke; that Figure 2 of Loke shows that the surface with the highest elevation 7 is used to support the palm; that Figure 3 of Loke shows keys 8-10 located in a surface on a distal side; that another surface 5 is shown in Figure 3, where the user's thumbs could be placed on this surface; that with respect to Claim 2, surface 7 has no keys as shown in Figure 3; and that with respect to Claim 16, the surface containing keys 8-10 is a horizontal surface.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 12, 19/1, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C.§102(b) as being anticipated by the Adam et al. patent ("Adam"). The Examiner maintains that with respect to Claim 1, Adam discloses a keyboard including a surface of highest elevation 2a, 2b for supporting the palm as shown in Figure 2 of Adam; that Adam further discloses a surface 11a on a distal side that contains keys in key group 3; that with respect to Claim 3, Figure 1 of Adam shows three surfaces on a distal side as shown in Figure 1; that one surface is 103a, 103b, a second surface is the surface containing key groups 20a and 20b and a third surface is the surface containing key groups 21a, 21b; that these surfaces are arranged in rows; that with respect to Claim 4, the three surfaces are each divided into two parts, as shown in Figure 1 of Adam; that with respect to Claim 12, the

surface of the highest elevation is divided into two portions 2a and 2b as shown in Figure 1 of Adam; that with respect to Claim 19/1, at least a portion of the surface 103a, 103b is located at the same elevation as the surface 2a, 2b; and that with respect to Claim 20, the entire keyboard can be moved horizontally on a table to provide better positioning for the user.

Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adam in view of the Hayashi et al. patent ("Hayashi"). The Examiner maintains that Adam discloses the claimed keyboard except for the surface adapted to move in inwardly and outwardly directions; that Adam discloses a keyboard including a surface of highest elevation 2a, 2b for supporting the palms as shown in Figure 2 of Adam; that Adam further discloses a surface 11a on a distal side that contains keys in key group 3; that Hayashi teaches a keyboard with two halves that can move inwardly and outwardly as shown in Figures 1 and 3A of Hayashi; and that it would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Hayashi with the keyboard disclosed by Adam for the advantage of adjusting a keyboard to a comfortable position for the user and for stowing the keyboard in a compact form when it is not in use.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

The present invention discloses a novel ergonomic keyboard design, aimed at providing better support for both palms for the user, as well as facilitating ease of operation. In essence, the keyboard is designed in the form of an elongated ridge, with surfaces on either sides of the ridge. The ridge provides support across the palms, leaving the fingers and the wrist (and its underlying anatomical structures, inter alia the carpal tunnel) suspended in the air, preventing direct pressure on the nerves, blood vessels and tendons, and allowing the fingers to reach anywhere on the keyboard surface that is extended below. The thumbs are practically separated from the rest of the fingers

by the elongated ridge, and the support provided to the palms stretches across the palms substantially below the knuckles at the bases of the fingers.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention, particularly as set forth in the claims amended above, is not suggested or disclosed by Loke, Adam, Haysashi, or any combination thereof. Loke discloses yet another single palm keyboard device, where support runs along the longitudinal axis of the palm, parallel to the fingers, effectively ensuring that the base of the palm and the carpal tunnel are constantly subjected to direct pressure. This is exactly what the present invention prevents.

Adam discloses a keyboard for use by both hands, where the elevated supporting surface is aimed at providing separate support for the base of the palm. As set forth above, this is clearly distinguishable from Applicant's invention. And Haysashi discloses a keyboard that has substantially one flat surface on which the keys are located, and providing support for the arm - again subjecting the base of the palm (hence the carpal tunnel) to directed undesired pressure. Hayashi does nothing to overcome the deficiencies of Adam as a reference.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims herein, especially as amended above, are patentable over the prior art and otherwise in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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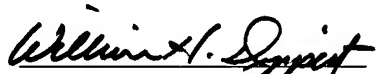

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